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Friday, April 22, 1921.

FAIR PLAY FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Within a few weeks the greater number of schools in this vicinity and also in most of the rural section of Texas will bring their terms to an end. They will have completed the eight months for which they had funds. This is the majority rule in the state. It is conceded that it is a bad one. There is no reason the child in the country should be cut off with eight months of school work while the one in the city has nine months.

The age of learning is only a few years at best, before the child of today is turned out to learn the lessons of life in a harder school. Just in ratio with the time the child has been allowed in the class room he or she is given a stepping stone for the take-off into living the life he or she has to work out.

It is no wonder that the parents who have striven in every way to make a living for their children should demand equal right—an even chance at the start. It is no wonder that the family which has been fortunate enough to make money and can do so takes the children to the city to enable them to have the best and longest periods of instruction.

Where a test may tear up their homes and home ties for a considerable period the great mass cannot do so. They are forced to stick where they can under a living. Their children must take what they can get in the way of school education. If it be eight months, so much the good. If it be but seven months, the loss must be accepted. There is no question that the country child should have as nearly as possible the advantages of the city one. It is in many instances handicapped by the possession of the city schools of more expert teachers and particularly of better apparatus and more topics that may be had in the country, yet under our advanced program of education we are getting many excellent teachers in the country schools. That, however, is not the issue in our scheme of education for the children in the rural districts. What they need is the full nine-month term.

Many school districts have gone into their pockets and made extra school days possible, but many have not had the money. They have realized that the child may have but one school life and that is restricted, and they have done their utmost, yet that almost has been short of what is desired or what is fair to the child.

At the meeting of the Gulf Coast educators in Abilene there was made decision to bring all possible pressure to bear upon the legislature at the special session this summer, that there be enacted a measure similar to the one which appropriated \$4,000,000 to rural schools which the governor felt obliged to veto. It is recognized that state income is limited and that bills passed at the regular session, coupled with the regular appropriations, which were not acted upon but deferred to the special session, will make a total of several millions in excess of normal revenue for the two-year period.

Under the circumstances it is inevitable that there should be a pruning of expenditures. The knife must be used where it will hurt. We submit as the cornerstone of public opinion in the state that the knife should be used almost anywhere save upon the items which give the children the right to a reasonable amount of school education. There should be no hesitancy in using state funds to enable country schools to run the full nine months every year. The state has a duty which must be

performed or neglected. If we neglect it we cannot make good the loss. Time which has been stolen from the child in the rural district cannot be found. It is gone forever.

It is only a short time until the special session will be functioning. We hope to see the needs of the rural schools as impressed upon every legislator that when there is opportunity the children may get fair play.

BUILDING COSTS LOWER

In Freeport, Ills., Wednesday, the carpenters and joiners made a voluntary reduction of the wage scale from one dollar an hour to eighty-seven and one-half cents. In other words they put the pay for an eight-hour day from eight dollars to seven. In Corpus Christi the carpenters have cut the wage scale from seven to six dollars. It must be borne in mind how the wage scale represents the low limit the union allows. In this city it covers the less experienced. The greater portion of those who are carpenters get about one dollar above the scale. The same rule applies, no doubt, in Illinois. Put in another way, the man who builds in Freeport can get union carpenters for rough work at seven dollars, presumably paying eight for finish men. In Corpus Christi he gets the roughwork men for six dollars and pays the best men seven.

For at least a year the actual cost for labor upon houses in this city has been a dollar less for a day's work than in the north or even in central or southern Texas. Besides this, the climate here is such that a workman may do more for the money than one under less agreeable conditions.

There appears to be no question that labor for building is cheap here, or that material has reached a low price. There is, as we have shown before, no reason for delaying construction of houses or apartments, in fear that prices might be lower later. There is every reason to build as rapidly as possible. The summer season is nearly here and the accommodations for many who would come if we had suitable housing for them is lacking. It is not too late to remedy the situation, at least in part, but we should waste no more time.

In the market reports we read that India has had a bad wheat season and that it will be an importer instead of an exporter of grain. This information is of interest to the grain growers of the west and northwest, who are forming a great pool for the marketing of their crops; also to the board of trade speculators who are conducting a campaign for dollar wheat. We have an idea the grain pool and the laws of supply and demand will have more influence than the dollar-wheat campaign. This might come about without making the cost of flour or the consumer a particle more. Retail costs of food remain at many points above what the grower gets. We are getting a proper basis for the citizen pays. The profiteering of today lies in the middlemen as it has all the time. When we get a strangle-hold upon the middleman, we get the key to cheaper living. Until we do that we cannot hope for much amelioration of retail prices.

BISHOP

Spurred by The Caller.
BISHOP, Texas, April 21.—Miss Elsie White, interrupted her music class Tuesday evening, came into the room to play the piano.

Mrs. O. H. Hobson received a telegram from a son who was in center Texas.

Miss Hobson moved to Corpus Christi Wednesday.

Mrs. J. A. Nelson and daughter, Misses Jeanne and Mary, were announced to Corpus Christi Wednesday.

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The baseball ball team and Bishop's team played a very interesting game in Bishop Wednesday.

Mr. C. L. Fleck has returned after a ten days' stay with his mother in Abilene.

MERCEDES

Spurred by The Caller.

MERCEDES, Texas, April 21.—The main memory contest is being put on in the schools in the grammar grades, and the competition is keen. Mrs. H. E. Johnson, president of the Merchants' Bank, organized the competition department of St. Ignatius.

The Big Grade Yulee Federation of Women's Clubs will meet at San Juan May 10.

Actor James J. Slattery, local shopkeeper, reported that the first of this month.

A turkey banquet was served to visitors and members.

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First State Bank
Of Corpus Christi, Texas**GURANTY FUND BANK**

The non-interest bearing and uninsured deposits of this bank are protected by the State Bank Guaranty Fund.
STATEMENT AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 21, 1921

RESOURCES

Loans and Dis-
counts \$1,396,122.16
U. S. Bonds and Tax
Certificates 18,000.00

Banking House Par-
tners and Pre-
sident 43,754.00

Other Real Estate,
Interest and Assess-
ment, Depositors
and Directors 43,000.00

Capital Stock 100,000.00

Surplus and Undi-
vided Profits 111,125.18

DEPOSITS 1,920,077.65

Less Reserves 100,000.00

CASH ON HAND
AND IN BANKS 556,588.89

Total 3,131,123.49

OFFICERS

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Measure the cost by the cup—not by the size of the can.

Always delicious, healthful and economical. Recipe booklet free.

Send 10c for special trial size.

Arthur H. Neal and Mrs. Gladie C. Neal were married in Corpus Christi Tuesday. They drove over and surprised their friends by being married while there.

T. Terrell, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Young and Sedona Grace Blundrett, Mrs. R. K. Linderman, Miss Myra Finkhauser and Misses J. A. Reed and A. O. Chapman were at the wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Clement and children and F. D. Frede and Miss Frances Frede were Thursday with the party.

Mrs. W. H. Young was hostess Wednesday afternoon at her solution home to the Wedgewood bridge club from 1000 to 1200 hours. The game was "Herbert Aspinwall" with high score. The invited guests were

made in the cup at the table.

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